

26. OCCURRENCE OF *HETERONYNCHUS* SP. (COLEOPTERA: SCARABAEIDAE) ON PADDY IN SOUTH INDIA

Heteronychnus sp. (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae) has been reported from North India as a pest of paddy seedlings (Chhoteysingh 1964)¹. Recently we recorded its occurrence on paddy in South India on the farms of Regional Research Station, Dharwar and Agricultural Research Station, Mugad, Dharwar District, University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwar, Karnataka State. Over twenty-five acres of rice was damaged at a stretch by the pest in Mugad farm. The damages was localized in Regional Research Station, Dharwar. Similar reports were also received from paddy cultivators of Dharwar District.

The adult beetles damaged the crop. The incidence of the pest was 80 per cent and it was found on crop of all age groups from June to September, 1974. However, the incidence of the pest was heavy on seedlings and the crop of vegetative stage. The crop of other

stages suffered little from the attack. The pest was severe on drill sown rainfed paddy and crop raised in areas of scant water resources. The adult beetles remained under ground very close to the root zone and cut at the collar of the plant; as a result the affected plants turned white and non ear bearing. In severe cases the entire clump dried up. A maximum of 10 beetles and a minimum of two were noticed per clump. To ascertain the nature of damage and symptoms of damage caused by the pest, adult beetles were enclosed with healthy seedlings planted in a cylindrical jar and observations were made. The nature of damage and symptoms observed on the plant were almost similar to the damage and symptoms observed in the field.

Further, studies on the biology, behaviour and control of the pest are in progress.

DEPARTMENT OF ENTOMOLOGY,
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE,
DHARWAR 580 005,
KARNATAKA,
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PUTTASWAMY
M. JAYARAMAIAH

¹ CHHOTEYSINGH, BHATULA (1964): The devourer of paddy seedlings, *Indian Fmg.* 14(8):18.

27. ADDITIONS TO THE APHID FAUNA OF BIHAR WITH THE FIRST RECORD OF AN APHID SEXUALE (HOMOPTERA: APHIDIDAE)

Bose & Ray (1968), Fletcher (1920, 1930), Lefroy (1909), Raychaudhuri (1956), Sen & Ray (1966) and van der Goot (1971) recorded 14 species belonging to 9 genera from Bihar. Subsequently, Ghosh (1970) re-

ported from Chotanagpur another 14 genera of which 10 were different from the previously mentioned 9 genera. The present note is based on the aphid specimens collected chiefly from the Netarhat hills (c. 1000 m). Examination